



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mary C. Snow Juneteenth Celebration

Charleston, WV - Race Matters in West Virginia and the Black Lives Matter Support Task Force will host a Juneteenth Celebration honoring Mary C. Snow on June 19th, 6:00pm at the The Unitarian Universalist Congregation (520 Kanawha Blvd, Charleston WV 25302) The event is free and open to the public.

They will show portions of the Documentary "The Teacher - Mary C Snow" featuring local musical and spoken word artists Bob Thompson and Crystal Good, and created by Michael Youngren. Come and help us take the next step toward greatness! Let's move forward in building a legacy Mary C. Snow would be proud of.

"THE TEACHER" is about Charleston, West Virginia educator Mary C. Snow. Born in 1913 when Woodrow Wilson was president, Mary lived to see an African-American in the White House. Her time was marked by America's racial transition - from slave to citizen. She endured and overcame indignity and injustice to become the first black principal of an integrated school and a widely respected member of Charleston culture and society. The documentary draws on two oral histories and a lengthy video interview to tell the story. Mary's brother, sister and son reflect on the remarkable woman they knew." - Mike Youngren

"This will be a celebration of Emancipation, Civil Rights and our own Mary C. Snow. Never going back but Reaching back to find our way forward," says Organizer Katonya Hart

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

<http://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm>

Here is a link to a preview of the film <https://vimeo.com/68482197>